"Express Mail" Label No. EL525753053US Date of Deposit August 17, 2001

on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-032100US

Client Reference No.: E6171-01 EV

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR 1.10



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hidetoshi Nishiyama, et al.

Application No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: Method and Its Apparatus for Inspecting Particles or Defects of a

Semiconductor Device

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A-B are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the

Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Wer C Columbia

Robert C. Colwell Reg. No. 27,431

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 650-326-2422

RCC:mks

PA 3164432 v1

 $\overline{+}$

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031*
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known		TO.	重
				Application Number		H-1	重
			CLOSURE	Filing Date		8 6.	重
STA	TEMENT B	Y A	PPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Nishiyama, Hidetoshi	<u> </u>	事
				Group Art Unit			運
	(use as many she	ets as	necessary)	Examiner Name		-66	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	16869S-032100US	Ţ	美

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	U.S. Pa	tent Docun	nent				
		Cite No.¹ Number Kind Code² (if known)		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		 						
	 							
	 	 						
		† 						
	<u> </u>							
				······································				
			1					
		<u> </u>						
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		-				
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>						
		<u> </u>						

				FOREIG	N PATENT DOCU	MENTS		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	For Office ³		iment Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	A1	JP	62-089336		Hitachi, Ltd.	04-23-1987		Abstract
	A2	JP	5-273110		Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd.	10-22-1993		Abstract
		-		-				
		<u> </u>		 				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitu	ite for form 1449	9B/PTO		Complete if Known		
INE		ON DIS	CLOSURE	Application Number		
				Filing Date		
SIA	IEMEN	IBYA	PPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Nishiyama, Hidetoshi	
				Group Art Unit		
	(use as mai	ny sheets as	necessary)	Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	16869S-032100US	

	OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²				
	А3	STACY HALL, et al., "Yield Monitoring and Analysis in Semiconductor Manufacturing," VLSI Technology Seminar (SEMICON Kansai, 1997), pp. 4-42 thru 4-47.					
-							

Examiner	Date	
Signature	1	
Signature	Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for PA 3164460 v1



EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.